THE NOR-WESTER EXTRA

WHY THE JAILS ARE BROKEN.

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Mr. Editor,—For the benefit of the Public generally, and more especially the persons now ruling this Settlement, we wish to state our idea of when, at certain times, the laws are set at defiance and the Prison broken into. It has been remarked, Mr. Editor, by all travellers who have visited us, that we are, or rather have been, a peaceable, quiet people. Murders are almost unknown. Stealing is very rare, and there must be some cause why, at times, the people take the law in their own hands, and set the existing authority at defiance—the reasons we will attempt to give. The bottom of the whole matter is, that we want, and ought to have, some voice in the Councils of the Country. We know that among ourselves, whenever anyone assumes power in our hunting parties or elsewhere, it is by the voice of the people who then consent to obey him, and thus all are interested in making bad ones, do so likewise, and we believe, that in every civilized country, the practice is the same, those who obey the laws have some voice in the making of the laws.

Now, Mr. Editor, as it stands now we have no voice in the making of the laws, and if any injustice is committed, we have no way of helping it except by doing what has been here done, breaking the law, which is not liked by us, and thus bettering ourselves. But it may be said, "You would get this representation in the Council if it was asked for." Now, Mr. Editor, last summer we wanted some representation, and we chose Dr. Schultz as being the fit person to take care of our interest in the Council; we got the names of nearly everyone to whom the Petition was shown, and then in an humble and respectful manner, asked that our wish should be complied with. What was the result? Why just the result that always has followed our efforts at getting our rights—simply nothing. We received no answer but without any consulting of the wishes of the people other persons known to be influenced by the existing authorities, were put in from districts already over represented, and the object of our choice is denied the usual priviliges of the Court, and then is treated with usage before unheard of among us. Is it any wonder that we almost despair of fair play, that we assemble again, as we have assembled before, to enforce our wishes when they are thus so constantly disregarded. To give you an instance of prevalent injustice, we will point you to the fact that within five miles of Fort Garry below there are seven Councillors; for fifty miles above of as thickly settled and influential a community only one Representative appears, and that one only recently appointed.

Now to sum up, Mr. Editor, the people who break the Jail and set the Law at defiance, do it because the Council allows them no other legitimate means of redress. In the last case the authorities were not set at defiance simply because they liked and trusted the Doctor, but, because they felt that injustice and wrong had been done to him, that for reasons best known to those who caused it, there was evinced a disposition to ill use him If he had been allowed fair play in all points not a hand would have been raised in his defense, no matter how much we might have regretted the facts. But we simply acted, as we have acted before, and will act again if necessary, in defence of the right of every man, high or low, rich or poor, to fair play and justice.

Now, Mr. Editor, here are the reasons for this apparent evil, withholding from the People their rights. Give them representation by election. Give them the rights which men everywhere enjoy, and you will probably never again hear of a Prison being broken, simply because they will then have a natural, and not an unatural way of redressing grievances.

FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE.